

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following abstract to the application immediately following the claims, as separate page number 87:

#### **ABSTRACT**

A pharmaceutical excipient comprising a solid, reticulated matrix, wherein the matrix comprises an aggregation of inorganic particles in association with an organic polymeric material, defines a plurality of pores with a mean width in the range of about 0.01- 500 $\mu$ m, and has a specific surface area of at least about 1 m<sup>2</sup>/g is described, as are products comprising such excipients, methods of making them and use thereof.